

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying a user input area within a computer user interface wherein the user input area corresponds to a data field having a specified number of characters, the method comprising:

displaying [[the]] a user input area within a computer user interface, wherein the user input area corresponds to a data field having a specified number of characters and has [[having]] a size that visually indicates to a user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of the specified number of characters of the data field;

upon receipt of a user input specifying a character to be included in the data field, displaying within the user input area a visual representation of the input character in a proportional font; [[and]]

adjusting the size of the user input area based on a size of characters included in the data field and the specified number of characters of the data field, wherein the size of characters included in the data field includes a size of the input character; and

displaying the adjusted user input area having a new size that visually indicates to the user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of a remaining number of the specified number of characters of the data field.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user input area is displayed only when the user input area has focus.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user input area contains a character before the user input specifying the character is received.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user input area is empty when the input specifying the character is received, and wherein the user input area size then is equal to the specified number of characters times a selected character width.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the selected character width is an average width of characters.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the size of the user input area after the specified character is displayed equals the width of the displayed character plus the remaining number of the specified number of characters times a selected character width.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the size of the user input area is adjusted after each character that is received.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising adjusting the size of the user input area differently after receiving a second last character of the specified number of characters.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising adjusting the user input area, after receiving the second last character, to equal a cumulative width of all characters displayed in the user input area plus a selected character width.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the selected character width is a maximum width of characters.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising adjusting the size of the user input area after receiving the specified number of characters, to equal a cumulative width of the characters displayed in the user input area.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a user input specifying a character to be removed from the data field is received, further comprising displaying the user input area without the removed character, the user input area having a size equal to a cumulative width of any characters displayed in the user input area plus the remaining number of the specified number of characters times a selected character width.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product containing executable instructions for displaying a user input area within a computer user interface ~~wherein the user input area corresponds to a data field having a specified number of characters~~, the instructions when executed causing a processor to:

display the user input area within the computer user interface, wherein the user input area corresponds to a data field having a specified number of characters and has ~~[[having]]~~ a size that visually indicates to a user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of the specified number of characters of the data field;

upon receipt of a user input specifying a character to be included in the data field, display within the user input area a visual representation of the input character in a proportional font; ~~[[and]]~~

adjust the size of the user input area based on a size of characters included in the data field and the specified number of characters of the data field, wherein the size of characters included in the data field includes a size of the input character; and

display the adjusted user input area having a new size that visually indicates to the user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of a remaining number of the specified number of characters of the data field.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the size of the user input area after displaying the input character equals the width of the character plus the remaining number of the specified number of characters times a selected character width.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the remaining number of the specified number of characters is received in the user input area, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the processor to:  
display the user input area with a size equal to a cumulative width of the displayed specified number of characters in the user input area.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the processor to:  
adjust the size of the user input area differently after receiving a second last character of the specified number of characters.

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the processor to:  
adjust the user input area, after receiving the second last character, to a size that is equal to a width of all characters displayed in the user input area plus a selected character width.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the selected character width is a maximum width of characters.

19. (New) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the new size that visually indicates to the user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of a remaining number of the specified number of characters is a different size than the size that visually indicates to a user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of the specified number of characters.

20. (New) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the new size that visually indicates to the user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual

representations of a remaining number of the specified number of characters is the same size as the size that visually indicates to a user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of the specified number of characters.